

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

FILE NUMBER: 7-576

SECTION : 192



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER 192

SERIALS 10986 - 10992

TOTAL PAGES 31

PAGES RELEASED 31

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED NONE

2070 East 28th St,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
April 30, 1936

5-11-36

Ack
cc NYC
RAM

Lt. Edgar Hoover,
Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

MAY 12 1936

Dear Sir:

7-576-10986	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 1 1936 P. M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

On March 3, of this year, a Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin rented a little furnished apartment which I have in my house. They were travelling from Michigan, they said, on a business trip (license of new Buick car, Michigan 42-560), were terribly tired from the long drive and I let them have the apartment without bothering them for references, etc. at the time. My suspicions were aroused first by the fact that the three or four seemingly very heavy suitcases which they brought in were filled with a lot of old books, which they piled on closet shelves. This I noticed while cleaning the rooms. They carried almost no personal things. The next suspicious thing was that one evening when the front door opened to admit the man, the door of my apartment (downstairs) was opened by the suction of air in the little hallway, and as I was sitting by the radio and facing the door, I saw the outer door close again and the man's hand went to his hip pocket. This inner vestibule door is glass and has a thin fabric curtain over it, so that the ~~xxxxxx~~ motion was clearly seen. As I am living alone since my daughters married, I was quite frightened, but I went to the door (my apartment door) to close it and said something about the latch having to be fixed to keep it from jumping open that way. The man then opened the door quite naturally, said "Good evening" and went upstairs. It was the first time I had had a close look at the new tenant, and it did not seem to me to be the same man who had come to take the apartment. It was the same general build and coloring but seemed younger. However, I was not at all sure that my fears were not fooling me. The next suspicious thing was a letter which came from Jackson, Mich., and had been addressed in pencil and afterward written over with ink. The inked address was "Mr. and Mrs. Martin Chaplin" and under a microscope that last name looked just like this:

Kaplin - (that is, the pencil was still there
the ink)

I do not read the papers very much, not having time and getting the news over the radio, so I had not even heard of your No. 1, and did not think about it until I saw in the news several days later something about it and wondered then if I had stumbled on something. The man comes only late at night, after twelve, usually and goes away again around two or three. He is so quiet getting up and downstairs that I do not hear him, but notice the car being there and not being there. The car, too, is noiseless. Then one evening they had company and several men were there. They went out in two groups--the first got into the car and drove off, but the second was a man alone who went down the steps rather noisily and irregularly, like a man with a limp. This man was shorter than the others. I simply saw his back as he went out of the yard and down the street. Just then the car, which had only gone around the block, passed the house again. I did not dare look out, and so I have no way of knowing whether they picked him up at the corner.

The girl goes to business. She found a job first in a beauty parlor but is now working at Schrafft's as waitress. I think she is rather a high class Italian type, and found rubbish indicating that her name is Emilia Monopachi. They all look to be Italian, not Jewish. This morning she told me that she is going away in two weeks or less to South America. I forgot to say that her suit cases are labelled with foreign hotel stickers. And it seemed queer that those bags should contain nothing but old books. The first day they were here, after bringing in the grips, the man left, carrying in his hand a tin box such as I use to keep my tax papers and insurance, etc. He returned late in the night, as I said before and left before morning.

This may all be the unimportant workings of a more or less imaginative woman living alone, induced by the fact that the people gave no references and acted rather differently from most people. But since they are going away to South America so soon, I thought I ought to state my suspicions to the proper authorities even though they may be worth nothing--- and even though I am a little afraid of the consequences to myself. However, I have done it now, and there is some consolation in the thought of that much fear overcome.

Sincerely,

(Mrs) Natalie Williamson.

KRM:AF

7-576-10986

May 11, 1936

RECORDED

Mrs. Natalie Williamson,
2070 East 28th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 30, 1936,
in which you furnish information concerning one Mr. Kaplan,
believed by you to be possibly identical with Alvin Karpis.

No doubt you have now been informed that Alvin
Karpis was captured by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau
of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, at New Orleans,
Louisiana, on May 1, 1936, for which reason it is quite
possible that the person to whom you refer is not identical
with Alvin Karpis.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-New York

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 19 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Wm

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Wash. Sect. Unit 1

POSTAL

APR 28 1936

TRXW27 12 COLLECT

BQ BIRMINGHAM ALA 28 556P DI

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION US DEPT OF JUSTICE

WASHN DC

BREKID FURNISH ADDITIONAL NINETEN HUNDRED REWARD CIRCULARS ON
also
 0 KARPIS AND CAMPBELL

GUINANE.

*2:00 Sent
 4-28-36
 gaw*

BI R 27

RECORDED

MAY 9 1936

7-576-10987	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 1 1936 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE TAMM	ONE MECH. SECT.
FILE	

69

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 28, 1936.

Time - 9:07 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Bremer Case.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schiffer	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

During a telephonic conversation which I had with SAC MacFarland at the Cleveland Office, he said that they are going to need another dial recording machine and two more automobiles in connection with the setup in that district.

I told him to telephone the Pittsburgh Office and ask them to send over a dial recording machine, if they are not using it, and one automobile. For the other automobile, I told him to get in touch with the Cincinnati Office.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED

MAY 2 1936

7-576-10988	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 1 1936 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE
OFF. CLK.	FILE

UNITED AIR LINES

TRANSPORT CORPORATION

La Salle-Wacker Building • Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

April 30, 1936

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I wish to thank you most sincerely for your communication of April 23. Prior to receipt of your letter, I received information concerning the difficulty at Cleveland.

Our company had gone to extreme lengths in cooperation with your agent in Chicago several months ago to set up machinery that would avoid the identical occurrence that took place at Cleveland. The employee with whom your agent came in contact is one of our dispatchers at Cleveland. He seldom comes in contact with the public in any way in the performance of his duties. He used poor judgment and acted contrary to the policy of the company. However, in view of the fact that we had set up arrangements so that your organization would only come in contact with supervisory personnel, I cannot help but feel that there is a joint responsibility for the leak taking place. I can assure you that we are advising all personnel generally of the necessity for keeping in confidence information concerning the movements of our patrons.

Several days ago I sent to Mr. C. C. Thompson, my Assistant who for the time being is in Washington, the complete file on this subject in order that he may call on you for a thorough discussion of the matter.

Please be assured I appreciate your communication.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Sincerely,

W. A. Patterson
W. A. Patterson,
President.

WAP/HE

JUN 8 1936

7-576-10989

INVESTIGATION

MAY 1 1936

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

What does
he mean?

memo for
Mr. Tamm
5/6/36
Pst

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

PEF:EHG
7-576

May 16, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Reference is made to the Director's inquiry on the letter received from Mr. W. A. Patterson, President of the United Air Lines, dated April 30, 1936, as to the meaning of his statement, "However, in view of the fact that we had set up arrangements so that your organization would only come in contact with supervisory personnel, I cannot help but feel that there is a joint responsibility for the leak taking place."

In this connection, the Bureau files reflect that under date of July 13, 1935, Special Agent in Charge D. M. Ladd of the Chicago Office transmitted to the Bureau a copy of a letter received from Mr. P. A. Wright, Assistant to the President, United Air Lines, concerning traffic personnel of that company who might be contacted in confidence by Agents of the Bureau. This letter, which is addressed to Mr. Melvin Purvis, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Room 1900 - 105 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, reads as follows:

"Dear Mr Purvis:

Pursuant to our very pleasant recent conversation, I am attaching hereto a list of United Air Lines traffic personnel who may be contacted in confidence by any one of your agents for the purpose of securing transportation on Government order.

Where any station on the lines of United Air Lines is not set forth in the attached list, it is suggested that your agents contact any one of the following within whose territory the contact is made:

- 1 J H Herlihy - Cleveland Municipal Airport, Cleveland, Ohio.
Any station between Newark and Chicago.
- 2 Ralph Reed - Municipal Airport, Omaha, Nebraska. Any
station between Chicago and Cheyenne.
- 3 L D Cuddeback - Municipal Airport, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Any point between Cheyenne and Oakland.

RECORDED

JUN 8 1936

7-576-10989
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 8 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM

66-3918-24

May 16, 1936.

- 4 S V Hall - Swan Island Airport, Portland, Oregon. Any point between Salt Lake City and Seattle, Spokane and Portland.
- 5 C E Johnson - Municipal Airport, Oakland, California. Any point between Portland and San Diego, California.

I am addressing each one of these gentlemen today under confidential cover in accordance with the attached sample letter.

I trust that this arrangement will prove to be entirely satisfactory to you and again assure you of our desire to cooperate in any way which we may. We must bear in mind at the same time, however, certain obligations which we have which may possibly result in information concerning the traveling of your agents being divulged."

There was attached to the letter a list of the stations of the United Air Lines together with the names of the persons to be contacted in each city. This list reflects Don B. Wilson, 708 Superior Avenue, N. E., as the person to be contacted at Cleveland, Ohio, and in his absence, Mr. J. H. Herlihy, whose address is shown above.

The personal and confidential letter referred to by Mr. Wright, which he stated was being forwarded to each of the gentlemen contained on his list, reads as follows:

"Dear Mr Gragg:

// This confidential memo is being addressed to you so that you may be informed of an arrangement recently consummated between our company and the U S Department of Justice.

Your name has been given to Mr Melvin Purvis, Director of the Department here at Chicago, with instructions that any of the Department's agents may contact you for the purpose of making reservations and securing tickets against Government travel orders, but such reservations and issuance of tickets are to be kept confidential by you, and no publicity of any kind is to emanate from yourself with regard to the traveling of such agents.

May 16, 1936.

In making such an arrangement, however, and in full recognition of our desire to cooperate with the Department in every way, we must bear in mind our inherent obligation to the Press with regard to matters of this kind. We suggest that no information be given out by you voluntarily as above described, but this is to caution you that of course in the event of a direct question being asked by an accredited member of the Press, it will be expected that you will answer such questions truthfully. Your usual courtesy and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated."

The letter received from Special Agent in Charge Ladd does not reflect that the information pertaining to the manner in which planes might be secured from the United Air Lines was ever furnished to the interested field offices. For this reason it would not appear that any criticism should be directed to the Cleveland Office for the manner in which it secured the plane, chartered at Cleveland for the trip to Hot Springs, Arkansas in connection with the investigation of the Bremer kidnaping case.

Respectfully,

P. E. Foxworth
P. E. Foxworth.

EAT:RLG

April 30, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Special Agent E. R. McIntire has been recently assigned to the supervision of the Kidnaping desk replacing Special Agent A. Rosen who is under transfer to the Washington Field Office. As you know, Mr. McIntire was absent during the entire week of April 19th to 25th due to necessity for his appearance in Florida and he will have to be in Miami on May 18th to assist in the preparation for the trial of Duke Randall and Joe Adams.

Mr. McIntire has asked for a few days' leave prior to May 18th in order to permit him to drive his personally owned car from Washington to Miami since he contemplates taking his wife and family to Miami and leaving them there for a period of time. Mr. McIntire will probably be in Florida for a month on the Randall-Adams trial and, accordingly, I believe it would be well to have Agent Rosen remain at the Bureau until the return of Mr. McIntire from Florida.

During the period from May 4th to May 15th I could use Mr. Rosen's services on the Impersonation desk since Special Agent M. B. Lindquist is scheduled for leave at that time.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED
INDEXED

7-576-10989X

MAY 14 1936 P.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 18 1936

OFF. OF
TOLSON TAMM
FOUR ONE FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 66-1855-13

TAMM ONE TWO SEP 14 1954

Clipping from the Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio,
dated April 27, 1936;
Clipping from the Warren Tribune Chronicle, Warren, Ohio,
dated April 27, 1936;
Clipping from the Warren Tribune Chronicle, Warren, Ohio,
dated April 28, 1936;
Clipping from the Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio,
dated April 28, 1936.

It should be indicated here that Post Office Inspector Tavener informed Special Agent T. M. Birch that he intended to bring George Hunter, the father of Fred Hunter, to Youngstown, Ohio, for questioning in connection with a letter received by him from Conneautville, Pennsylvania, which appeared to be in the handwriting of his son, Fred Hunter. Special Agent T. M. Birch was instructed by the writer to accompany Inspector Tavener and to be present at the interview which was to be had with Hunter's father.

On April 28, 1936 Post Office Inspector Cordrey arrived at Youngstown, Ohio, presumably from some place in Oklahoma, although it is possible that he came to Youngstown from Little Rock, Arkansas. Upon arriving in Youngstown, Special Agent E. J. Dowd advised that he had a secret conference with Post Office Inspectors Tavener, McNeil, and Ulch. Confidentially, Post Office Inspector Ulch advised Agent Dowd that Cordrey was returning to his home at Lima, Ohio, and from there was going west to hunt Karpis and Campbell.

In accordance with instructions received from Special Agent in Charge E. J. Connelley, it might be indicated that informant Edith Barry, the operator of a house of prostitution at Toledo, Ohio, where Karpis and Campbell have frequently visited, is being invited to proceed to Cleveland, Ohio, and to register in an hotel under her true name, with the understanding that she is to get in touch with this office immediately upon her arrival. Special Agent E. J. Wynn is presently at Toledo, Ohio, to effect arrangements for Edith Barry to proceed to Cleveland. Action with reference to having Edith Barry leave Toledo at this time is necessary in view of the expressed intention of Post Office Inspector S. J. Hettrick to take her into custody on Thursday of this week for questioning. Edith Barry will be interrogated during her stay in Cleveland, for all information that she may be able to furnish concerning the possible whereabouts of subjects Karpis and Campbell.

In that Edith Barry will be more or less under the supervision of this office, authority is requested from the Bureau at this time to allow an expenditure of not in excess of \$75.00 to compensate her for such expenditures as she will make during her voluntary stay in Cleveland.

7-1

Confirming teletype message to the Bureau of this date, authority is also requested to install a telephone observation on the telephone of Edith Ellinger, Canton, Ohio, and to expend the sum not in excess of \$75.00 for the maintenance of said plant.

Authority is also respectfully requested to expend not in excess of the sum of \$60.00 for upkeep of the plant being maintained at the premises of Clayton Hall at Youngstown, Ohio.

JPM/EJB
CC - Cincinnati
- Chicago
- New Orleans

Very truly yours,

J. P. MacFarland
J. P. MacFARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

THE CLEVELAND NEWS
April 28, 1936

Karpis' Holdup Role Revealed In Confession

While crack G-men scoured the nation for them, Alvin Karpis, public menace No. 1, and his limping pal, Harry Campbell, stood on a sunlit platform at Garrettsville, O., last Nov. 7, and directed a \$46,000 train robbery with machine guns.

This information is contained in a confession obtained by postal inspectors from John Brock, one of the Karpis gang now under arrest at Youngstown.

The signed confession, unusual in the realm of the tight-lipped underworld, revealed for the first time many hitherto unknown facts about the operations of the notorious Karpis gang.

Guard Against Reprisals

Because of fears of possible reprisal, Brock is being closely guarded in the Youngstown county jail.

Assistant District Attorney Frank Wiedeman will leave for Youngstown late today to ask that a bond of \$100,000 be set for Brock when he is arraigned.

Wiedeman yesterday issued warrants for Karpis, Campbell, Brock, Fred Hunter and a man known only as "Sam," charging them with the train robbery. All of the men were named in the confession.

Brock, breaking the underworld code of silence, said that the gang had slept in a farmhouse between Warren and Youngstown the night preceding the robbery, that they left by auto early the next morning to wait for the train at Garrettsville, and that Campbell and Karpis took full command of the expedition.

Trapped by Securities

Brock was arrested 10 days ago in Oklahoma. He had been traced there, Wiedeman said, through securities stolen in the train robbery, which he tried to cash through a gambling house.

After his arrest, Brock, alias Harold Johnson, was flown back to Bowling Green, O., under the greatest secrecy and then later lodged in the Youngstown jail.

At one point his confession warns government agents that Karpis is a dangerous criminal and a killer.

Other details of the confession are being closely guarded by postal authorities.

COPIES DESTROYED

11 MAR 25 1965

7-576-10990

THE YOUNGSTOWN TELEGRAM
April 28, 1936

KARPIS GANGSTER HELD IN JAIL HERE

U. S. Agents To Quiz Man In
Garrettsville Holdup

Department of Justice men were expected here from Cleveland to return John Brock, alleged member of the Alvin Karpis gang, for questioning in the \$46,000 mail train holdup at Garrettsville last November.

Brock was placed in the county jail by the federal agents 10 days ago under the name of Harold Johnson, one of Brock's alleged aliases. He was ordered held for the Department of Justice.

Word that he is suspected of being a member of the Karpis gang came yesterday when affidavits against Brock, Karpis, known as Public Enemy No. 1, Harry Campbell, Fred Hunter and "Joe Doe" were issued by the federal agents.

It was reported that Brock had confessed and named Karpis, Campbell and two others as participants in the holdup and for this reason was "hidden" in the jail here. He was arrested in a southern city.

Attendants at the jail here said they have not been informed of Brock's alleged connection with the Karpis gang or the Garrettsville robbery. They said they were only told to hold the man for the federal officers.

Warren police said Hunter formerly lived there and was known as an expert marksman. The five men are accused by the Department of Justice of being members of the gang of six which staged the Garrettsville "wild west" holdup. Federal agents are believed to have sought Karpis in this district recently.

COPIES DESTROYED

11 MAR 25 1965

KARPIS REWARD UP

Price On Gangster's Head Now
Totals \$7,000

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The price on the head of Alvin Karpis went up to \$7,000 today as the Postoffice Inspection Service disclosed an undercover search for the man now rated as "public enemy No. 1."

The inspection service offered \$2,000 for information resulting in the arrest and conviction of Karpis and another \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his companion, Harry Campbell.

Atty. Gen. Cummings offered \$5,000 for Karpis leads and \$2,500 for Campbell tips last week.

The Inspection Service said today it has been working closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation since Karpis and Campbell were named as leaders of a gang which recently robbed a train at Garrettsville, Ohio.

The Bureau of Investigation wants Karpis and Campbell for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul, Minn., banker on Jan. 17, 1934. Karpis is also charged with the earlier kidnaping of William A. Hamm, Jr., St. Paul brewer.

7-576-10992

617 So. 21st
Birmingham

To The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gentleman

this ad come to my address through the Birmingham News. about the 20th of inst & on the morning of the 23rd I met 3 men in a cupe the culer was a lite tan tha met me on the Montgomery Highway about one mile from the heart of Birainingham tha stop & ask me about a touris camp I told them that tha had pass the camp if tha come over the Montgomery Highway then one of them whom I surpose to be Cambell wanted to no was this the Montgomery Highway - at this time a white man come walking up the Highway one whom I surpose to be Karpis orderd the felow at the wheal to call him in question in which he did I could not understan what he ask him He came back & got in the car in a few minutes another white man came along on a wheal & agan the driver got out & cald him in question I could not heare thair converseshion but each man pointed them back to the mountin or Shades Mountin at that time tha was comeing down Red Mountin into Birmingham & one of them whom I surpose to be Cambell ask me whare was the Mountin & I told him that he was on Red Mountin then. But this felow whom I surpose to be Karpis interceeds by saying somthing to Cambell that I could not understand & Cambell said no more but Karpis seem to be the Boss having but little to say now whom I surpose to be Karpis was the big hevy set felow setting in his seat he seem to weigh about 140 lbs & seem be about 5 1/2 foot & sumsting big full face prety hevy voice Cambell is a small slim stacher weight about 135 lbs heigh seem to be about same as or less Karpis eather one of them did not get out of the car but the driver is slim & tall than eather probly his weight 150 lbs he did all the moving about so tha turned around on Red Mountin & wint back towards Shades Mountin I noterfide the U.S. Marshall of the sean in a few hours but he seem to take no strus I guess because I am colored & the robbers white which is genreal ruling in the south to my mind the robbers fled from the North & East after the reward was offord & may now be hideing around the mountis of Birmingham Please send me that potos & I can tel whether tha are the men or not

/s/ James W. Marshall (Col)

COPIES DESTROYED

11 MAR 25 1965

P.S. I saw the potoes of Karpis & Cambell today at the Post Office
I am shew theas are the men you may can get trace of them at Tureas
Camp in Shades Vally about 3 miles south of Birmingham it was between
8:30 & 9 oclock the 23 of April 1936 - I am defrontly shure theas
are the men but the 3rd man seam to be very obedient to the others
I mean the driver the cupe seam to be an old modle no fancy doings
about it - it had a rumble seat & it was up with a suit case in the
seat - Karpis is wareing big wide brim dome colored cow boy hat &
rides on the out side Cabell rides between him & the driver I did
not notice anny scar at that time

WARREN TRIBUNE CHRONICLE
April 28, 1936

WARREN MAN HUNTED WITH KARPIS

U. S. Puts \$2,000 On Hunter's Head

**Charged As Being Member of Gang That
Held Up Train At Garrettsville; Once
Blasted Jail In Attempt To Escape**

Postal Inspector Harry W. Tavenor, prominent figure in the investigation of the Garrettsville train robbery and the Warren mail robbery, today verified reports that Fred Hunter, named as an accomplice of Alvin Karpis in the Garrettsville holdup, is a Warren man. A \$2,000 reward has been reported offered for his arrest.

Hunter is well known here, where he once dynamited a corner out of the county jail in a desperate break for freedom while imprisoned there, and for his gambling activities in "joints" thruout this district, it was learned. Tavenor said he is a brother of Owen Hunter, shot and killed by police in a holdup of a west side filling station in 1932.

COPIES DESTROYED

11 MAR 25 1965

Police and deputy sheriffs have not been officially notified of affidavits filed recently and announced yesterday by U. S. Assistant District Attorney Frank Weideman in Cleveland naming Karpis, national public enemy No. 1, Harry Campbell, pal of Karpis, and Hunter and two others as the Garrettsville robbers who last Nov. 7 held up an Erie passenger train and took \$46,000 in cash and securities.

Started Crime Career Here

The charges filed in Federal court place Hunter in the category of an accomplice of the nation's most sought criminal, on whose head a \$7,000 reward was placed last week. Hunter's rise to such a notorious position in the world of gangdom is said to have begun in Trumbull county with minor offenses, leading on up thru auto theft and illegal possession of explosives to train robbery of the most sensational type.

Confesses and Names Gang

Harold Johnson, held in Mahoning county jail at Youngstown and also charged with the Garrettsville robbery, is reported to have signed sworn statements that he, Karpis, Campbell, Hunter and a man named "Sam" carried out the holdup.

Johnson, believed to be the only one of the quintet now in custody, also admitted brandishing a machine gun at the railway station where the bandits held up the train crew and fled with the mail pouches a few minutes before the train was scheduled to arrive in Warren with its \$46,000 cargo, consigned to a bank here. Johnson is also known as John Brock and gave his address as North Jackson when arrested secretly in Youngstown.

Officials refused to discuss the Johnson arrest and the date of his arraignment is being kept secret.

Known As Gambler

An expert "black-jack" dealer, Hunter was a popular figure in gambling places in Warren and the county during the prohibition and early repeal years, but he has not been seen in this vicinity for about a year. He is an expert pistol shot, as was his brother who was slain in a battle with the law.

The almost historical county jail dynamiting episode in Hunter's career occurred about 15 years ago. Hunter and two other men were in the same cell block from which E. E. Martin, Leroy Keith and Ray Jutilla attempted to escape during the past two years.

The prisoners obtained dynamite in some manner and blasted a huge section of the heavy wall at the northeast corner of the jail, but did not escape.

SOUGHT AS BANDITS



Associated Press Photo.
Fred Hunter of Warren has been named with Alvin Karpis, (top) public enemy No. 1, in the \$46,000 Garrettsville mail train robbery Nov. 7, 1935. Harry Campbell (below) first lieutenant of Karpis, is also accused of the daring holdup. Hunter, Karpis and Campbell are the object of a nationwide hunt by Federal authorities.

WARREN TRIBUNE CHRONICLE
April 27, 1936

LINKS FRED HUNTER IN GARRETTSVILLE

U. S. FILES AFFIDAVITS AGAINST 5

One Of Quintet In Custody, Hunt On For Other 4

Fred Hunter today was linked with Alvin Karpis, national public enemy No. 1, and three others of the notorious Karpis gang in the \$46,000 Garrettsville train robbery Nov. 7, 1935, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Cleveland. Federal charges against Hunter, Karpis, Harry Campbell and the others were filed today by Assistant U. S. District Attorney Frank Weideman in Cleveland. One of the five is in custody but the federal authorities decline to say which one.

Hunter was also listed under aliases of Fred King, Harold King and Fred Harris. Karpis and Campbell have been linked in other ventures but the train robbery charges are the first in which Hunter has been named with the gang.

The two remaining men accused of the sensational train holdup at the Garrettsville-Hiram station were Jock Brock, alias T. F. Evans, alias Harold Johnson, and John Doe, alias "Sam."

Weideman said the affidavits will form the basis of warrants containing the specific charges of robbing the mails. A \$5,000 reward has already been posted by the government for information leading to the apprehension of Karpis.

Karpis Directed Holdup

"Karpis directed and led the robbery," said Weideman. "Campbell and the others took part."

The robbers lined up the engineer, firemen, three mail clerks and several spectators, picked two men to carry mail pouches, and forced the two to put the pouches in a waiting automobile.

"The evidence obtained in federal investigation indicated these men all participated," he said. "Witnesses to the robbery identified pictures of the men for whom warrants are being prepared."

One of the five is in custody, but Weideman declined to specify which beyond the fact it is not Karpis.

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11 MAR 25 1965

WARREN TRIBUNE CHRONICLE
April 27, 1936

LINKS FRED HUNTER WITH K IN GARRETTSVILLE TRAIN HO

HERE

KARPIS GANG HUNTED HERE

U. S. Renews Search After Local Man Confesses, Involving Mob

(Continued from Page 1)
and T. F. Evans, gave his age as 34 and address as North Jackson, when lodged in county jail here. He has brown hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion.

Travener Out of Town
H. W. Travener, postal inspector who has been working on the case since the daring daylight train robbery, was out of the city today. It was said he could not be reached by telephone. Members of his family would not say where he was, but said he would be back tonight.

Meanwhile, it was learned that postal inspectors from Cleveland may visit Youngstown in connection with the Johnson case. It was not known when they would arrive.

In the Garrettsville robbery, six armed bandits held up the train in mid-afternoon, threatening the engineer, fireman, three mail clerks, and several spectators with machine guns. A single shot was fired inside the mail coach, striking one of the clerks on the forehead.

Two of the men were forced to carry mail sacks to an auto in which the robbers made their escape. Loot was \$34,000 in currency and \$12,450 in securities.

The robbery was quickly executed, and mail clerks said the bandits apparently knew what they were after.

Warren police today said that Hunter is a former Warren man and has a police record. They said that 15 years ago, while being held in the Trumbull County jail on an automobile theft charge, he attempted to dynamite his way out of the building. For this he served a term in the Ohio Penitentiary.

They said that both Hunter and his brother were known as expert marksmen and that his brother was killed in a gasoline station gun battle several years ago.

Weakens Case Against Keady
On Feb. 26, Grover (Burhead) Keady was brought to Cleveland from Tulsa, Okla., and charged with participating in the holdup. At that time, postal inspectors said witnesses to the robbery tentatively identified him as a suspect. He is being held at Cleveland, but federal authorities indicated the new affidavits have lessened the case against him.

Today's charges added to a long list for Karpis. He is wanted in connection with the Edward G. Bremer \$200,000 ransom kidnapping in St. Paul, in January, 1934, and for several killings.

Campbell came to public notice in January, 1935, when he and "Old Creepy"—as Karpis is known in the underworld—shot their way out of a police trap in Atlantic City, N. J.

The pair abducted Dr. H. H. Hunsicker, an Allentown, Pa., physician, held him captive 25 hours, released him near Akron, and continued their flight into Michigan in Hunsicker's car, which later was found abandoned.

LOCAL SUSPECT ADMITS PART IN \$46,000 THEFT

Implicates Gang in Mail Robbery at Garrettsville

U. S. BOOSTS REWARD FOR KARPIS' CAPTURE

Postal Department Offers \$2,000 in Addition to G-Men's \$5,000

Harold Johnson, held in county jail here and charged with the Alvin Karpis gang with the \$46,000 Garrettsville train robbery Nov. 7, has named Karpis, Harry Campbell, chief lieutenant of Karpis, and two other men as companion bandits.

News of Johnson's confession came as it was believed federal agents have been hunting Karpis near Youngstown.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Frank Weideman of Cleveland says Johnson signed affidavits charging Karpis, Campbell, Fred Hunter, alias Harold King, alias Fred Harris, and John Doe, alias "Sam," with robbing the mails.

Report Johnson Confesses

Johnson also has admitted that he was one of five machine gunners, led by Karpis, America's No. 1 public enemy, in the mail robbery, federal agents say.

Weideman would not reveal details of Johnson's reported confession, but he said the affidavits were signed after postal authorities conferred with the district attorney's office. The district attorney's office was notified by Sylvester J. Hetrick, postal inspector of Cleveland, who has been working on the case since the robbery.

Postal authorities Monday posted \$2,000 rewards for the capture of Karpis and his three henchmen. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the G-men, a week ago offered a \$5,000 reward for Karpis and \$2,500 for Campbell.

It is known that federal agents have been hunting Karpis in this district recently.

News of the federal men's hunt for Karpis recalled the trapping and fatal shooting of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd near East Liverpool in October, 1934, by federal agents.

Johnson Arraigned

Johnson was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Morgan here after his arrest, but the arraignment date was not divulged. He was committed to county jail after the arraignment.

Morgan would not divulge the nature of the charge filed against Johnson here, although he said the charge placed against him in Cleveland will supersede the one here.

Johnson's arrest was shrouded in secrecy, it is believed, because federal agents hoped to arrest Karpis and Campbell.

Both Morgan and Deputy U. S. Marshal Matthew Wansack have refused to divulge any information on the Johnson case.

Johnson, also known as John Brock
(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

HUNTED WITH KARPIS



HARRY CAMPBELL

Federal authorities were searching for Harry Campbell, noted outlaw, as the companion of Alvin Karpis, Public Enemy No. 1, and others in connection with the robbery several months ago of a mail train at Garrettsville, between Cleveland and Warren. Harold Johnson, a member of the gang, has been held in jail here.

COPIES DE
11 MAR

U. S. CHARGES GANGSTERS IN TRAIN ROBBERY

**Federal Man Swears
Out Warrants in
Erie Holdup**

**SAY 1 SUSPECT IS
WARREN RESIDENT**

**Hunter Has Prison Record
—Hoover Offers Reward
for Karpis, Campbell**

One of five members of Alvin Karpis' gang, charged with holding up and robbing an Erie Railroad mail train of \$48,000 at Garrettsville last Nov. 7, is being held in county jail here.

The suspect is John Brock, alias T. P. Evans, alias Harold Johnson, who was arrested 10 days ago and was booked at the county jail here as Harold Johnson. He is held for federal authorities on a charge of being a suspicious person.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Frank Weideman at Cleveland today confirmed that Johnson was one of five men, including Karpis, the nation's public enemy No. 1, who were charged in affidavits sworn out in Cleveland charging them with participation in the holdup.

Affidavits Filed

The affidavits were the basis for warrants charging robbing the mails. The affidavits name Karpis; his henchman, Harry Campbell; Fred Hunter, alias Harold King, alias Fred Harris, and John Doe, alias "Sam."

Warren police today said that Hunter is a former Warren man and has a police record. They said that 16 days ago, while being held in the Trumbull County jail on an automobile theft charge, he attempted to dynamite his way out of the building. For this he served a term in the Ohio penitentiary.

They said that both Hunter and his brother were known as expert marksmen and that his brother was

(Continued on page 4, col. 3)

KARPIS GANG SUSPECT HELD

**Man Picked Up Here Is
Wanted by U. S. for
Mail Train Theft**

(Continued from Page 1)
killed in a gasoline station gun battle several years ago.

Weakens Case Against Keady

On Feb. 28, Grover (Burhead) Keady was brought to Cleveland from Tulsa, Okla., and charged with participating in the holdup. At that time, postal inspectors said witnesses to the robbery tentatively identified him as a suspect. He is being held at Cleveland, but federal authorities indicated the new affidavits have lessened the case against him.

In the Garrettsville robbery, six men held up a Erie Railroad train in mid-afternoon. Carrying machine guns, they forced the engineer, fireman, three mail clerks and several spectators to line up on the station platform.

Two of the men were forced to carry mail sacks to an automobile in which the robbers then made their escape. The loot was \$34,000 in currency and \$12,450 in securities.

The federal government recently put a price on Karpis and Campbell's heads.

Offer Two Rewards

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, offered rewards of \$5,000 and \$2,500 for information leading to the capture of the gang leader, and Campbell, respectively.

Today's charges added to a long list for Karpis. He is wanted in connection with the Edward G. Bremer \$200,000 ransom kidnaping in St. Paul, in January, 1934, and for several killings.

Campbell came to public notice in January, 1934, when he and "Old Creepy"—as Karpis is known in the underworld—shot their way out of a police trap in Atlantic City, N. J.

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11 MAR 25 1963

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FEDERAL MEN
HUNT KARPIS,
GANG IN CITY

Local Suspect Admits
Part in Robbery at
Garrettsville

U. S. BOOSTS REWARD
FOR KARPIS' CAPTURE

Postal Department Offers
\$2,000 in Addition to
G-Men's \$5,000

Federal agents for nearly two months have been expecting Alvin Karpis, the nation's No. 1 public enemy, to visit Youngstown. It is disclosed by Federal authorities.

Karpis has visited Youngstown before, it was learned as Harold Johnson, held in county jail here and charged with the \$46,000 Garrettsville train robbery Nov. 7, named Karpis, Alvin Campbell, chief lieutenant of Karpis, and two other men as companion bandits in the mail train holdup.

The agents have been hot on Karpis' trail recently, but he always eluded their traps.

E. W. Tavenor, postal inspector, who has been working on the case since the daring daylight train robbery, said that Johnson was traced to Oklahoma after he was seen at the Garrettsville station. He was arrested early in March and was brought to Youngstown, Tavenor said.

He said that Johnson has a prison record and is known as a "dangerous" man. Tavenor said that Karpis is known to have been here several times.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Hugh McNamee of Cleveland was expected in Youngstown today in connection with the Johnson case.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Frank Weldman of Cleveland says (Continued on Page 6, Col. 2)

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11 MAR 25 1965

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U. S. Renews Search After Local Man Confesses, Involving Mob

(Continued from Page 1)

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Postal Inspectors to Come

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

TDQ:RCL

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 28, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Mr. Suydam telephoned and stated that they were working on a matter for the National Broadcasting Company about which he had already spoken to the Director which will not take place until Karpis is actually apprehended. He stated they had all the material, but now found they did not have an identification order and wanted to know if we would furnish them with one.

In compliance with his request, a copy of the identification order was forwarded to Mr. Suydam.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 86-2

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-576-10991
APR 30 1936
TOLSON TAMM FUDR JOSEPH

MAY 5 1936

DEINDEXED
THIS SERIAL ONLY
4/20/37 23

KRM:AF
7-576 - 10992

May 11, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. James W. Marshall
617 South 21st Street
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

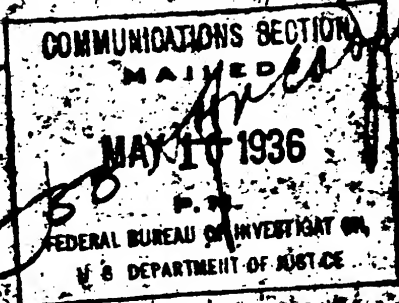
Reference is made to your undated letter received by this Bureau on May 2, 1936, and in compliance with the request contained therein, I am transmitting to you herewith Identification Orders issued by this Bureau on Alvin Karpis and Harry Campbell, which contain their photographs and fingerprints.

No doubt you are informed by this time that Alvin Karpis was apprehended by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, at New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 1, 1936, while Harry Campbell was arrested by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Toledo, Ohio, on May 7, 1936.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1124186
cc-Birmingham



With this fellow whom I suppose
to be Karpis Intercede by saying
something to Campbell that I
could not understand & Campbell
said no more. But Karpis seem
to be the Boss having but little to
say now. Whom I suppose to be
Karpis was the Big heavy set. felt
sitting in his seat. He seem to
weigh a Bout 140 lbs & seem to
be a Bout 5' 6" & sumtime Big full
face pretty heavy voice Campbell
is a small slim stockier with
a Bout 135 lbs High seem to be a
Bout same as Karpis. Either one of
them did not get out of the car. But
the driver is slim & tall than
either. Probly his weigh 150 lbs
He did all the moving a Bout so
then turned a Round on Redmont
& went Bout to wards shades
mountain & Notefield to U.S. marsh
of the down in a few hours. But
he seem to take no trust to Guss
the cause I am colored & the Robbers
white which I feel real bad. I am
not in my mind to do

fled from the North & East after the
Reward was offered. May now be
hiding a Round the mountain of
Birmingham. Please send me the
Photo & I can tel whether that are
the men or not.

Love & respect to all

1471 20-21st Birmingham
To The Federal Bureau
Investigation

RECORDED

7-576-18992

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 8 1936

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 12 1936

Dear Gentlemen
Come to my address through
the Birmingham News about
the 20th inst - on the morning
of the 23rd I met 3 men in a
couple the color was a Lite Tan
than met me on the Montgomery
High way a Bout one mile
from the beach of Birmingham
then stop & ask me a Bout a Touri
Camp & told them that they had
pass the camp if they come over
the Montgomery High way then
one of them whom I suppose to be
Campbell wanted to no was this
the Montgomery High way at this
time a white man come walking
up the High way one whom I suppose
to be Karpis, ordered the fellow at the
wheel to call him in question
in which he did & could not under-
stand what he ask him. He came
back & got in the car in a few
minutes a nother white man
came along on a wheel & a gun
the driver got out & ask him in
question & could hear their con-
versation But each man pointed
them back to the mountain or shaded
mountain at that time. They was
coming down Red Mountain into
Birmingham & one of them whom
I suppose to be Campbell ask me
where was the mountain & I told
them.

P. S. I saw the ~~idea of~~
Widia Campbell to day
at the Post office I am
a few weeks are the men - you
may can get trace of them
at Treas Camp in shaded
valley a bout 3 miles south
of Birmingham it was he
between 8:30 & 9 o'clock the 23 of
April 1936 I am definitely
sure these are the men
But the 3rd man seemed to be
very obedient to the others &
indian the driver the coupe
seems to be an old model and
it once doing a Bank in it
had a rumble seat in was
up with a suit case in the
seat Karpis is wearing
Big wide Brims dark
colored cowboy hat on
Rides on the out side
cabell Rides between him
and the driver I did not notice
any scar at that time

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

MAY 1 7 15 PM 1936

FILES SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

MAY 1 5 10 PM 1936

FILES SECTION

TOTAL FOR THIS PAGE

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PAY ROLL IS CORRECT